



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

April 23, 2018

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

FROM: William H. Hussey, Director *WJH*
Exceptional Children Division

ECATS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

This is a follow up to Directors and Coordinators concerning ECATs and the development by the Exceptional Children Division (ECD) of resources to support LEA/Charter School training for the ECATs implementation/rollout. As stated during the webinar on April 17, 2018, the ECD will be sending out the fillable PDFs to LEAs/Charter Schools in May. The first series of these forms were posted on the website on April 19, 2018, along with supporting materials to guide LEA/Charters in how to utilize the forms.

The ECD is very aware of concerns for rollout and the need to provide materials that support the LEA/Charter Schools in preparation for the 2018-2019 school year. The ECD gathered feedback from the 2018 March Institute during the Wednesday afternoon ECATS session and the Directors Advisory Council, as well as during the phone and face to face CASE Board meeting. We have committed to a series of steps to ensure the most effective support we can provide within the parameters of the development and production process.

The ECD will provide PDF versions of the forms and accompanying guidance documents, screen shots, baseline user roles, provide training for data managers and EC Directors, and provide information to support parents' understanding of the grace period. Additionally, the ECD is committed to focusing much of the May regional meetings on what the EC Directors and Coordinators need to know about ECATs, including reports, and will continue to work with districts and charters, if needed, to think through how to build their implementation plans and teams. The LEA training sites (test sites) will require IAM and a live data test environment. These test sites will likely not be available/go live until July 2018.

In the May Regional Director/Coordinator meetings, the ECD will share the guidance documents that accompany the fillable PDF forms as well as the tips and guidance materials provided to the pilot sites. The documents will be reviewed during the time allotted for ECATs; and the staff will answer or document questions. Feedback from all Regional Meetings will be gathered and reviewed, and all responses will be sent to everyone via listserv.

Dates and locations for the July and August ECATS regional trainings by ECD and PCG are forthcoming.

WJH/ss

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

William J. Hussey, *Director* | bill.hussey@dpi.nc.gov

6356 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6356 | (919) 807-3969 | Fax (919) 807-3243

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER